

Serial No. 10/609,317

Docket No.: KCC-13,485.1

REMARKS

Applicants' undersigned attorney thanks the Examiner for her comments. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this patent application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks. Currently, Claims 1-6, 9-12, and 14-23 are pending.

Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1-6, 9-12, and 14-23 have been examined, and the Examiner has indicated that Claims 1-6, 9-12, 14, and 22 are allowed. Applicants respectfully request cancellation of Claims 15-21 and 23.

No new matter has been added by this Amendment. No additional fee is required because the number of independent claims has been reduced and the total number of claims has also been reduced.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103**A. Brandon et al. in view of Instance (and Weyenberg)**

The rejection of Claims 15, 16, 18-21, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brandon et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,818,719) in view of Instance (U.S. Patent No. 5,674,334) (and Weyenberg (U.S. Patent No. 5,359,525)) is respectfully traversed. More particularly, Applicants have requested cancellation of Claims 15, 16, 18-21, and 23, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

B. Brandon in view of Instance and Weyenberg and further in view of Popp

The rejection of Claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brandon in view of Instance and Weyenberg as applied to Claim 15 above, and further in view of Popp et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,932,039), is respectfully traversed. More particularly, Applicants have requested cancellation of Claim 17, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

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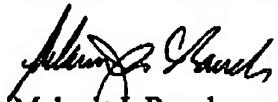
Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 1-6, 9-12, 14, and 22 are allowed. As indicated above, Applicants have requested cancellation of Claims 15-21 and 23.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that this case is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner feels that any issues remain, then Applicants' undersigned attorney would like to discuss the case with the Examiner. The undersigned can be reached at (847) 490-1400.

Respectfully submitted,


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